



The Scottish Parliament

(For official use only) PUBLIC PETITION NO.	PE1147
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Should you wish to submit a public petition for consideration by the Public Petitions Committee please refer to the guidance leaflet [How to submit a public petition](#) and the Guidance Notes at the back of this form.

1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER
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Mrs Annmargaret Watson

2. TEXT OF PETITION

Petition by Mrs Annmargaret Watson, on behalf of Fire Reforms Actions Group, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review current legislation to ensure that each local authority is represented on the fire service joint board to ensure that board decisions reflect local concerns and views and to revise legislation which prevents local authorities from increasing fire cover without full joint board authorisation and to bring this into line with police service cover.

3. ACTION TAKEN TO RESOLVE ISSUES OF CONCERN BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PETITION
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I learned of proposals to downgrade my local fire station in May 2005. Upon which I contacted my MSP (Bristow Muldoon) My MP (Robin Cook) & also my Councillor (Peter Johnston). My MSP was in support of the proposed changes, My MP advised that it was a devolved matter, therefore, could not get involved. However, my Councillor was very concerned about the proposals therefore, offered guidance to residents when forming the campaign group against the cuts he also offered to help guide us through the consultation process. Since May 2007 we have had full council backing for our campaign and our MSP Angela Constance also backs our opposition to the cuts

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We feel that the current legislation needs to be reviewed as West Lothian Council offered to pay for all costs (£500,000) to ensure the retention of our current Fire Cover, however, the board which is made up of Councillors from neighbouring authorities took the decision to cut our services, without looking at factual information which highlights the inefficiency of our current retained crews in West Lothian. The decision to cut our Fire Cover was taken by Councillors who will not be affected by the cuts despite the fact that West Lothian Council clearly sees the need to retain statue quo.

The Fire Reforms Action Group is made up of residents of West Lothian who

COMMENTS TO STIMULATE ON-LINE DISCUSSION

It is the duty of the Fire Board to ensure the overall safety of all communities in its area, therefore the opinions of the local residents and their Local Authorities must be a priority and the pursuit of 'best value' should not always result in cuts or closures. We therefore must ensure that Fire Boards always put public safety before financial savings.